

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising

a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material, the hollow body having a structure producing a ball-hitting sound whose maximum sound pressure level occurs around 6.3 kHz,

said structure including:

said sole portion ~~comprising~~ consisting of a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein

the front part is thicker than the back part and has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, and the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part, wherein said back part has a thickness of from 0.7 to 1.8 mm, and the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1; and

the surface area of the sole portion being in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>.

2. (Currently amended) A golf club head according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein the thickness of the back part is from 0.7 to 1.8 mm.

3. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which ~~the thickness of the front part is from 1.2 to 1.8 mm and~~ the thickness of the back part is from 0.9 to 1.6 mm.

4. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the thickness of the front part is from 1.4 to 1.6 mm and the thickness of the back part is at least 0.9 mm ~~and~~ ~~the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1.~~

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5. (Previously presented) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.8 but less than 1.

6. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, 3, 4 or 5, in which the front part extends from the toe-side edge to the heel-side edge of the sole portion.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is substantially straight.

8. (Currently amended) ~~The golf club head according to claim 1, in which~~  
A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising  
a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material,  
the hollow body having a structure producing a ball-hitting sound whose maximum sound  
pressure level occurs around 6.3 kHz,  
said structure including:  
said sole portion comprising a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein  
the front part is thicker than the back part and has a substantially constant thickness of  
from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, and the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front  
part to that of the back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part; and  
the surface area of the sole portion being in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>, and  
the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is curved convexly toward the club face.

9. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is curved concavely toward the club face.

10. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

11. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 1 ~~7~~ 17, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

12. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 2, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

13. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 3, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

14. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

15. (Currently amended) The golf club head according to claim 5, in which the front ~~portion~~ part has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

16. (Withdrawn) The golf club head according to claim 9, in which the edge (K) is curved in parallel with the club face.

17. (New) A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising

a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material, said sole portion comprising a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein said front part is thicker than the back part,  
the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the

back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part, and said rear edge is curved convexly toward the club face,

said front part has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, said back part has a thickness of from 0.7 to 1.8 mm, and the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1,

the surface area of the sole portion is in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm<sup>2</sup>.